

Order of Worship for November 9, 2025

Prelude

P: The Lord be with you,

C: and also with you.

Opening Hymn: “*Lord of All Good*” - Hymn #786

Confessing our Sin and Receiving God’s Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Lord God, you have given us all we have. You call on us to be stewards, to take care of what you have entrusted to us—

C: Our bodies, our families, our work, our education, the world around us.

P: But we neglect our responsibilities as stewards.

C: We take for granted what you give to us. We abuse our bodies. We complain about what we don’t have or Your “bad” choices in what You have given to us. We misuse so much of what You have entrusted to us.

P: We have become like the servant who said of his master, “My master is a long time in coming,” and then abuses what the master had entrusted to him.

C: Forgive us, Lord.

P: Jesus Christ took on the duty of being the steward of our salvation. He faced death on the cross as payment for our lack of stewardship. By His command and by the power He gives to His people, the Church, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Service of the Word

Hymn of Praise: “*Praise and Thanksgiving*” - Hymn #789

P: The Lord be with you,

C: and also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, as You have given us far more than we can ask or think, give us the confidence to share those blessings freely, knowing that You supply all that we truly need and have given us eternal life in Your Son, Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

R: But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21:1-4

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message (8:30)

Sermon Hymn: “One Thing’s Needful” - Hymn #536 vs. 1, 3-5

Sermon: “The Stewardship of Saying No”- Mark 1:35-39

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. Simon Peter and his companions went to look for Jesus, and when they found Him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for You!” Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Mark 1:35-9

Most of us are taught from a young age to say no to things that are overtly dangerous or problematic—whether it be playing catch in a busy street or giving personal information to a stranger. But what we’re not often taught is when to say no to neutral or even good things. Maybe you’re a parent with a full-time job, and you struggle knowing whether to respond to an important email or head home to your family. Maybe you’re a remote employee who feels pressure to be online beyond the typical nine-to-five workday. Maybe it’s simply that you’re a woman who’s been taught that saying yes equates to being nice, agreeable, and helpful. Between societal pressures, cultural norms, social expectations, and the development of 24-hour connectivity, it’s no surprise that we find ourselves going along with more than we should.

We need to understand what is ours to do and what isn't. God gave us boundaries that limit our days to 24 hours and our week to six days of work with a Sabbath rest. God also made our bodies with limits—the rhythms of regular sleep and frequent nourishment affect our capacity in real ways. We need to honor our human limitations by taking cues from the natural boundaries of time and body.

That is what we see Jesus, the human, doing in Mark's Gospel. Jesus had gone to Simon Peter's house and healed his mother-in-law from illness. We know from archaeology that Peter's house lay right in the middle of the town of Capernaum. Word spread quickly about the miracle. And all kinds of sick people were brought to Jesus. Yes, Jesus could heal them, but he didn't do it by the power He had as God, but by the special power given to Him by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah. He didn't just snap His fingers and heal them. It took prayer and trust in His Father. It was exhausting mentally, physically, and spiritually. That is why even before the sun came up, Jesus went away from the house, which along the Sea of Galilee meant a climb up from the edge of the lake, to a quiet place to pray with His Father. He wasn't just doing that to set us an example. He needed it. He needed to say, "No," to all the healing He was doing to get recharged being alone with His Father.

Saying "no," Greg McKeown, author of *New York Times* bestseller Essentialism, writes, "Only once you give yourself permission to stop trying to do it all, to stop saying yes to everyone, can you make your highest contribution towards the things that really matter." Jesus models this throughout the Gospels when He makes choices about when He prays versus when He teaches; when He requires solitude versus when He meets the crowds; whom He chooses to heal versus whom He does not.

So why wouldn't we say "no," to things we can't handle? Because that means accepting the fact that we can't do it, that it is beyond us. When we do something, we are in the driver's seat, we think we are in control. When we say "no," to good or neutral things, then we are missing the chance to get something done, to mark off another positive thing on our list.

We can find ourselves doing that in our relationship to other people. If I do something for someone, that person owes me. But if I let that person do something for me, I owe that person. We can feel that puts us in a position under that person, when we'd rather be on top. But even in our sincere efforts to not want to be a burden to others, we slam the door on their attempts to give to us.

But Jesus has come to free us from trying to be on top, to trying to be in control. He did that by saying "no" to all the things He could have done, like stop His enemies from killing Him and instead saying "yes" to the goal His father had—to save people from sin by His death on the cross. We are freed from having to do things to get right with God, to "score enough good points" to compensate for our failures, so we can say "yes" to what really matters—loving others as he loves us.

Lysa TerKeurst quotes Louie Giglio in her book The Best Yes: "Whenever you say yes to something, there is less of you for something else. Make sure your yes is worth the less." That

is what happens in marriage. But we realize that is worth it because marriage becomes greater than just the husband and wife. How much more it is with our relationship with God. When we say “Yes” to God, then there is less for many other things. But we are connected to the one who is limitless in His love, the love we need to be able to share it with others.

That includes allowing others to give to us. Writer Kate Bowler crafted this poem after a cancer diagnosis:

Bless you as you ask for the help you so readily give. / May you be met with the same love that you’ve always poured out. / May you find ways to give still / that fit the shape of today’s available spoons. / Not more, not less. / Just what’s right for now.

Once we decide to set boundaries to steward our lives well, understand the beauty of saying no, and reframe our stories, we’re in a strong position to put what we’ve learned into practice. What does this look like on a daily basis? James 5:12 shows us that when we speak our yes and our no, it is enough. We don’t need to make elaborate promises or multiple excuses. Our answers are rooted in our integrity and, as such, stand on their own. When we commit to an answer and follow through, this is a sign of spiritual maturity. Communicating our “no” clearly is also a kindness to both ourselves and the other party involved. And it’s important to remember we’re responsible for what we say, but not how the information is received.

The whole point of saying “no” is to be able to say “yes” to what really matters. St. Paul tells us how God did that for us in 2 Corinthians:

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in Him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

God’s big “yes” be our guide as we determine what is “yes” and “no.”

Creed: First Article of Creed and Explanation:

The Prayer for Priorities:

P: How we need to be renewed, O Lord, especially in our priorities, for without You as the compass point of our lives we are like children, “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.” (Ephesians 4:14) Renew our priorities, O Lord, and then teach us to say and live:

C: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want . . . He leads me.” (Psalm 23:1,2)

P: When we are tempted to place such a priority on studies and success and advancement that we say that only by cheating can we survive, renew our priorities, O Lord, and then teach us to say and live:

**C: “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?”
(Mark 8:36)**

P: When we are led to provide everything for our children except knowledge of You and faith in You, when the things of this world become more important to their lives and ours than the Kingdom, renew our priorities, then teach us to say and live:

C: “But seek you first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these shall be yours as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

P: When we have schedules that are so busy that we have no time for You and Your church, when we use the talents You have bestowed on us for everything and everyone but our fellow members of our Lord’s Body, renew our priorities, O Lord, and then teach us to say and live:

C: “Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sin . . . As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (I Peter 4:8, 10)

P: When we are pulled into compromise by the desires and passions and promises of this world, forgive us, Lord, renew our priorities, and then teach us to say and live:

**C: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
(Romans 12:2)**

Other concerns . . .

P: When we are confronted by the temptation to ignore the good and choose evil, when we find ourselves rationalizing our compromises, when we have lost our integrity and feel lost and helpless and condemned, forgive us, Lord, renew our priorities, and then teach us to say and live:

C: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Stewardship Message:

Sharing our Ministry:

Offering—Voluntary:

Offering Hymn: “We Give Thee but Our Own” - Hymn #781

8:30 AM service continues...

Lord's Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

P: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts, continue to grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit to use them always to Your honor and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Listen, God Is Calling” - Hymn #833

Postlude

11 AM service continues...

Service of the Sacrament

Call to Communion:

P: God has given us ourselves and everything we need. As Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Yet in His great love for us God makes His Word visible in Holy Communion. Jesus offers us His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper to forgive us of our sins. As stewards of all that He has given us, we obey His command and join in this wonderful meal. We celebrate the Holy Communion!

The Words of our Lord:

The Lord's Prayer:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns: “God of Grace and God of Glory” - Hymn #850

“Take My Life and Let It Be” - Hymn #783

Dismissal:

Closing Prayer:

P: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts, continue to grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit to use them always to Your honor and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing: (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“Listen, God Is Calling”* - **Hymn #833**

Postlude